



Springfield-Greene County  
Health Department  
*Helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives*

**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1-4-06\*\*\***

***From the Office of the Director of Health***

### **Additional Influenza Vaccine Now Available to High-Risk Individuals**

More than 200 additional doses of influenza vaccine are now available to high-risk individuals in Greene County. This unexpected supply was part of a late shipment from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

The vaccine will be provided at no cost to individuals over the age of 4 who meet the following requirements:

- Children over age 4 with chronic health conditions
- Adults with chronic health conditions
- Women who will be pregnant during the flu season
- Seniors 65 or older
- Health care workers or individuals in close contact with infants under 6 months of age or high-risk adults

Vaccinations will be offered at the Westside Public Health Center at 660 South Scenic, beginning with a walk-in clinic Tuesday, January 10 from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. For additional walk-in clinic dates, or to schedule an appointment, call the Westside Public Health Center at (417) 874-1220.

The Westside Public Health Center will also offer pneumococcal vaccinations. This vaccination protects against pneumococcal disease that could lead to pneumonia, bacteremia or meningitis. The vaccination is recommended for individuals who meet the following guidelines:

- Seniors 65 or older
- Adults who have problems with their lungs, heart, liver or kidneys
- Adults who have had their spleen removed
- Adults with health problems such as diabetes, sickle cell disease, alcoholism or HIV/AIDS

Most people only need one pneumococcal vaccination for lifetime protection, however, some individuals may require a booster shoot after five years. A fee does apply for pneumococcal vaccinations, although Medicaid and Medicare generally cover the shot. For Medicare verification, call 1-800-633-4227.

**Media inquiries, contact:**

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